

POWELL AND THE VESTMENTS

INVESTIGATING SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OF JERSEY ASSEMBLY.

A Legislative Committee Trying to Find out What His Connections Were With the Restoration of Vestments Stolen From a Newark Church.

A committee of New Jersey legislators began yesterday to try to find out what connection George H. Powell, sergeant-at-arms of the Assembly, had with the recovery of the vestments recently stolen from Grace Church, in Newark, of which Rev. C. C. Edmunds is rector. Former Police Judge Wilbur A. Mott of Newark was counsel for Powell. Just before the hearing began Powell went up to the Rev. Mr. Edmunds and said:

"You've made a lot of trouble for me. I thought when I came to see you that I was taking the part of a good Samaritan."

The rector smiled and said something in a low tone. Powell answered: "Well, I'm not sorry for anything I've done, and I walked away from the clergyman."

Capt. John Cosgrove of the Newark detective force testified that he had assigned two of his men, Tuft and Wiggins, to the robbery immediately after it had been reported to him.

Detective Glori, who was working independently of the assigned men, reported to Cosgrove last Wednesday night that he was on the track of the thief. As he had later the stolen vestments and the alleged thief, Rev. Mr. Wagner, were brought into Police Headquarters. Capt. Cosgrove said that Dr. Clark, the police surgeon, had called him up on the telephone on Wednesday and said that the Rev. Mr. Edmunds had visited him, the doctor, and declared that Powell had come to the rectory and offered to return the vestments for money.

Capt. Cosgrove told Dr. Clark to tell the rector not to give a reward to anybody, as the Police Department would get the goods and the thief.

Detective Glori said that his first connection with the case came when he was called on Wednesday afternoon to go to a pawnshop. He met Lewis there and they met Powell later on at a corner. Powell told him of his visit to the Rev. Mr. Edmunds. The witness said to Powell: "You have committed a very serious error. If the prosecutor hears of it you might be indicted."

Powell told Glori that a man named Russell had informed him, Powell, that a colored man, William Gaines, knew where the stolen goods were. Glori saw Gaines and reported to Capt. Cosgrove. Then Glori went with Detective Lewis and Powell to the rectory. Wednesday afternoon Glori said the object of his visit was to see the minister right about the reward, "to get George Powell right with the minister," and to make an arrest that would help him in his business.

Reverend Edmunds testified that when Powell called on him he said he represented a person who had a third reward and possibly a fourth person. Powell suggested a reward of \$250 for the return of the vestments. He said the word of the rector was sufficient guarantee for the payment of the reward and declared that his only reason for mixing up in the matter was his interest in the church. There was nothing in the conversation, the rector said, to indicate that the reward was to go to Powell.

Russell testified that he had first read the robbery in the newspaper. Gaines came to him the next night in a saloon and said he thought he knew who had committed the robbery. Russell suggested to Gaines that the church people would pay to get the vestments back. Russell then saw Powell, who went to the rector's house. "When he came out," Russell said, "he declared that the reward wasn't in a position to give any reward."

The witness said he was acting in Gaines's behalf, but that Gaines had got the reward and handed it to him. Russell, he wouldn't have refused it.

The investigation will be continued.

S. I. FERRY TO B. & O.

Dock Commissioner Says Trolley Fare Outweighed.

Dock Commissioner Hawkins, in a long report sent last night to the Sinking Fund Commissioners, recommends that the Staten Island Ferry be placed on a par with the Baltimore and Ohio trolley fare.

The Baltimore and Ohio trolley fare is five cents, and the Staten Island Ferry is four cents. The report says that the ferry is a more convenient mode of transport than the trolley.

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FOR THE SPELLING BOOK.

Prof. Jones of Missouri Advocating a New Educational Crusade.

MAISON, Mo., Feb. 21.—Prof. David Jones, a teacher of Schuyler county, is advocating a spelling reform crusade. He opposes the issuing of diplomas to students of business colleges and other institutions until they rank 100 in spelling.

The professor was in Macon to-day talking up the organization of the country schools into spelling districts. His plan is to have an association of spellers who have demonstrated their ability to handle Webster satisfactorily. There are associations devoted to specific trades and the professor thinks that such an organization of spellers would be as useful in any other calling.

"Correct spelling is distinctively the basis of true education," said Prof. Jones. "The failure to recognize this is the cause of much dissatisfaction in the business world to-day."

"The average stenographer and typewriter, fresh from a commercial college, is a source of trouble for the first person he or she takes employment with. It is taken as a matter of course when a student enters a business college that he can spell. It frequently happens that he cannot."

"He may acquire proficiency in bookkeeping, shorthand and typewriting all right without the instructors having detected a very marked deficiency in spelling. I know of an employer who questioned a young woman applicant for work about her spelling. He found her spelling so bad that he refused to employ her. It is taken as a matter of course when a student enters a business college that he can spell. It frequently happens that he cannot."

"That's good," said the prospective employer, "but—pardon me, miss—can you spell?"

"Oh, my spelling never troubles me in the least," was the cheerful answer.

"That, of course, was a clincher. She got the job. He found out that she had started spelling, but the absolute truth—her spelling didn't trouble her a bit. It was the man that she worked for that suffered over it."

"I think that fully as much time should be devoted in the district and county schools to spelling as to arithmetic. The old-fashioned spelling bee is a good idea. I am sure that it is not as much in vogue as it used to be."

"I guess I'm getting old and maybe a bit cranky on the subject. Some people are in for reforming the world from drink; others are out advocating physical culture, trying to awaken the people of Missouri to a proper veneration of the spelling book."

"Up in his county Prof. Jones is known as the 'champion speller of the world.' He appends that title to the signature of his letters. He has been challenged to a spelling bee by a publisher of a newspaper. He has published a challenge to anybody in the world to spell against him on these conditions: Contest to last four hours; no dictionary; English, pronounced as spelled; no outside help; the winner to get a Webster's Unabridged Dictionary and a change of clothes."

During the third of a century Prof. Jones's challenges have been accepted five times, persons coming from various parts of the country to challenge him. He is 54 years old and is now teaching a district school in Schuyler county, Mo.

PUSHING RUSSIA'S COMMERCE.

Remarkable Efforts the Government is Making to Promote Business.

No country in the world is striving harder to develop all its resources and teach people to handle them skillfully than Russia. The Government and the leading men desire that the country shall buy nothing abroad which it can produce at home.

One of the most energetic efforts to advance the interests of commerce and manufactures is the commercial school. These schools are being founded by the Government wherever it is thought they will be useful. There are now forty-three commercial schools in the empire under the control of the state besides twenty others that are supported by commercial bodies.

They are being started even in Asia. One of the most interesting of these schools is in Tiflis, an Asiatic city in Caucasus. This school was established only three years ago and already has 700 students. Boys and young men of twelve different nationalities are attending it.

The 10,000,000 inhabitants of Caucasus are made of many ancient tribes. Only a quarter of population is Russian, but the Government insists that the Russian language shall be taught throughout the course and that Russian commercial and other business methods shall be constantly inculcated. There are forty-eight teachers and the course extends over five years. Such a school devoted to a thorough study of the history and materials of commerce and of commercial methods, correspondence and bookkeeping is expected to have a wide influence upon the commercial development of a vast region extending over beyond the Russian domain, for Tiflis has close business relations with Persia, Turkistan, Afghanistan, India and even China, and camel trains from Damascus, Bagdad and Arabia reach the city.

In Russian commercial schools the subjects of commerce and commercial conditions are studied with great minuteness. The students are thoroughly instructed in the various branches of commerce, including petroleum, of which Caucasus furnishes nearly half of the world's supply. The industries in this region include sugar, thus far confined to forams, textiles and carpets. In the Tiflis school agriculture, stock-raising, mineralogy and manufacturing are thoroughly studied; samples of all commercial plants and minerals are collected and no student leaves the school without acquiring a thorough knowledge of all the products of Caucasus and adjoining countries. This knowledge will inevitably be of great service to the graduates in future years, whether they are merchants or manufacturers.

The leading business men of Russia are alive to the fact that these commercial schools will be of incalculable value in the development of the enormous resources of their country. The signs of the times all over the world are distinctly in favor of commercial education, and the work that even Russia is now doing in this line will afford object lessons to other nations that are interested in utilizing every means for improving their commercial condition.

Schlecht-Freund.

The marriage of Miss Sophie Freund, daughter of an importer of South American goods, who has been visiting the family of Henry Hoelscher of Bay Twenty-first street, and Benson avenue, Bensonhurst, to Sergeant Major E. C. Schlecht of the Twenty-second Regiment, took place at the Hoelscher residence at noon yesterday. Magistrate A. B. V. Coles, Jr., of the County of New York, performed the ceremony. After the ceremony, which was witnessed by a few friends, the young couple started on a wedding tour to South America, where they will visit the bride's father.

OSCAR COLES FERRIS'S WILL.

DIVIDES \$3,000,000 AMONG WIDOW AND CHILDREN.

The Residuary Legatee Are the Widow and Kate V. Ferris, a Daughter—The Homestead Property, Which Is at Morris Plains, Is Left in Trust to the Widow.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., Feb. 21.—The will of the late Oscar Coles Ferris of Morris Plains was admitted to probate yesterday. The estate is valued at \$3,000,000. The will provides for the payment of \$50,000 to the George F. Ferris trust, and the balance of the estate in trust, the income to be used for the care of the Ferris plot in Greenwood Cemetery.

To Kate V. Ferris, a daughter, are devised the properties at 620, 622, 624, 626 and 628 Columbus avenue, New York. The properties at 630, 632, 634 and 636 Columbus avenue are to be held in trust for the benefit of the widow, Louise Coles Ferris, in fee of dower, and at her death to go to the son George. The property 242, 244, 246 and 248 West 116th street, New York is bequeathed to the executrix in trust, and the annual income to be paid yearly to the daughter, Almina S. Ferris, and the remainder to be divided between Kate V. Ferris, another daughter, and the testator's widow.

To George F. Ferris the properties at 621 Columbus avenue, 41 West Nineteenth street, 351 West 115th street, 307 Manhattan avenue, and 116, 118, 120 and 122 Lawrence street, New York, are bequeathed absolutely.

The homestead property at Morris Plains was left in trust for the widow, upon her death to go to George F. Ferris.

The residue of the estate is devised to the widow and Kate V. Ferris, executrices, who have qualified.

Oscar Coles Ferris was the son of George Ferris and Catherine Ann Post, a niece of William Lloyd, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. From his father he inherited the family homestead at Frogg's Neck, L. I., and other large property interests. In 1885 he was married to Ada Stuart Woodworth, daughter of the late Judge W. Woodworth, by whom he had three children. After her death he married Louise Coles Ferris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Lovell Caulfield of Morris Plains. He died two weeks ago at his home in Morris Plains, N. J.

THE "HUNDRETH NIGHT."

Celebrated at West Point by a Musical Command—The Caprice of Cupid.

WEST POINT, Feb. 21.—The "Hundredth Night" entertainment of the corps of cadets came off in Cullum Memorial Hall to-night, and there was a large attendance of society folks, including many from New York city, Brooklyn, Poughkeepsie and Newburgh, friends of the cadets. Among those from New York were Major-General and Mrs. Charles F. Roe.

The "Hundredth Night" indicates that it is only 100 days until June, at which time the first class is graduated and the third class goes home on furlough. The date has been celebrated annually for many years. The play is given under the auspices of the Dialectic Society of the U. S. M. A., and to-night's bill was a musical comedy in three acts, entitled "The Caprice of Cupid," by Cadet Allen Melville, the music of which was arranged and in part composed by Cadet Edmund Louis Gruber.

The programme, together with the synopsis, some songs and jokes, was printed in a souvenir booklet. Affectionately Dedicated to the Cadet Girl's Our Arms Our Defense. Her Arms Our Reconnaissance.

The songs and choruses were admirably rendered and the hits directed at the officers and professors were well taken. Cadets MacArthur, Grant, Schley, Lawson, Zell, Samuelson, Farnum, Boyers, Barker and Farnsworth were especially successful in their parts. The string music furnished by the Military Academy Band, under the direction of Prof. George Essigke, was of a high order.

PRIEST USES A REVOLVER.

Exchanges Shots With a Burglar Seeking the Receipts of a Fair.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 21.—For a week the Catholics of Anderson have been holding a church fair and Father Thomas Conroy has acted as treasurer, taking the receipts home with him every night. Early this morning he heard some one on the stairs approaching his room, and thinking it might be a burglar who knew that he had money in the house, he armed himself with a revolver and opened his door.

As the burglar's hands were raised, he heard a loud voice call to him to throw up his hands and almost as the words spoken he saw the flash of a pistol. Father Conroy fired four shots, the burglar ran and then ran towards an open window.

Father Conroy fired another shot as the burglar disappeared. The man made his escape apparently unharmed.

WAITER HELD ON GIRLS' CHARGE.

Double Complaint of Abduction and Seduction Made Against Francis.

EMIL FRANCES of 323 West Thirty-eighth street, a waiter at Brown's chop house on Broadway, was taken to the police station last night on a double charge of abduction and seduction.

The ferry company agents have been running up with the police, and on Friday night arrested Minnie Moll, 14, of 516 Ninth avenue in front of the American Theatre on Eighth avenue. In the Children's Court yesterday she was committed to the care of the society while her case was being looked into.

She confessed to Agents Pissara and Fogarty that she and another girl, Katie Reid of 307 West Forty-first street, had been in the habit of going to the theatre on tickets supplied by Francis.

The Reid girl was arrested and corroborated the story. The agents then took Francis into custody.

TWELVE REAL GOLD BRICKS.

Sent to the Assay Office in Helena, Mont., by Registered Mail.

HELENA, Mont., Feb. 21.—A novel shipment was received at the United States Assay Office in this city to-day in the shape of twelve gold bricks worth more than \$40,000. They came by registered mail and are the product of the Barren and Kendall mines in Fergus county, which John W. Gates and John A. Drake of Chicago are about to purchase.

Mr. Drake is on a personal inspection. Ten of the smaller bricks represented a two-weeks' clean-up at the former mine. They weighed 1,000 ounces and were assayed as being worth more than \$20,000. The bricks were each incased in canvas and shipped as ordinary registered packages. The postage on the packages, varied from \$2.40 to \$12.30 each. The gold will be forwarded to the Philadelphia Mint next week.

Prendergast Wants Place on Charities Board.

William A. Prendergast of Brooklyn, who has long been active in Republican politics and who made two unsuccessful runs for Congress, is a candidate for appointment to an expected vacancy on the State Board of Charities. It is understood that E. H. Litchfield of Brooklyn, whose term on the board will expire next year has asked Gov. Odell to relieve him at once. It is for Mr. Litchfield's place that Mr. Prendergast is an aspirant. Mr. Prendergast has been endorsed by Mayor McClellan, who contends that the Catholics are entitled to a representative on the Board and he will also have the backing of the Republican organization. The matter was called to the attention of the Governor, when Charles S. Devoe and Mr. Prendergast called upon him on Thursday.

CUT OFF BY ICE.

Little Communication Save by Cable With Prince Edward Island.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Feb. 20.—At the most, Prince Edward Island is only about twenty miles from the mainland of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Jutting capes on either side reduce the distance in some places to six or seven miles. But under present conditions the people that live on that island—there are about 120,000 of them—might as well be in the Arctic regions, so far as their relation with the world outside is concerned. For weeks the cable under Northumberland Straits has been the only regular means of communication.

For the Straits from the north are packed as never before with fields of floating ice from the river and Gulf of St. Lawrence, the monotony of whose Arctic ice is broken by piled-up bergs of blue Arctic ice that has drifted down on the northern current through the Straits of Belle Isle, and by varying open spaces of water which make crossing on foot or in sleds impossible.

The Dominion Government has a couple of ice-breakers, the *St. Lawrence* and the *St. John*, which are used on the island service in the winter, but these are worse than useless in the present conditions. The *St. Lawrence* is the mouth of Pictou Harbor on the Nova Scotia side, and the *St. John* is the grip of a huge field of pack ice, has been for weeks unable to drift helplessly up and down the Straits at the mercy of winds and tides. She has not touched land on either side since Jan. 9.

But the islanders are not worrying much. They are clannish people. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and Prince Edward Island," they say, only after the fashion of the old Irish legend. It is "The Island," with an expression that indicates that other bodies of land surrounded by water have no business on the map.

But even they like to hear from the rest of the world sometimes and occasionally there is an islander on the mainland who wants to hear from his friends at home and the carriage of mails men are found to risk their lives on fine days by crossing over the ice in sleds and harness. To maintain a distance of about six miles, in ice boats.

These craft are big row boats fitted for rowing and having four or five runners along the bottom instead of a keel.

When conditions are suitable and a start is made from either shore both the rowers and the sledges are pulled by men. The sleds are fitted with water tight rubber suits from neck to heels, for seldom is a man lucky enough to get across without a fall. The sleds are pulled by ropes, cracks into the icy water. These ducks have their advantages though, on a bitter day, for the water quickly freezes over and the sleds are pulled by a cold coat which a polar bear might envy.

From the shore sled or board ice runs out generally for a mile or more, and the sleds are pulled by a cold coat which a polar bear might envy.

The endeavor is to proceed by rowing along the channels between the masses of ice. Progress is very slow.

The lanes of clear water are tortuous and constantly changing. Frequently a man will be crossing a narrow channel, miles ends abruptly in an unbroken wall of ice. Then the crew and the men among the passengers climb out and lift the heavy sleds and drag them up the ice. The sleds are pulled by a cold coat which a polar bear might envy.

Anything else is running into a "trench of" a mixture of snow and water as sticky as mortar and unstable as ice. The sleds are pulled by a cold coat which a polar bear might envy.

With good luck, plenty of open water and smooth ice, the crossing may be made in two or three hours. Sometimes it takes a day. Once this winter, on account of contrary currents, the boats crossed the Straits in a week. The boats crossed the Straits in a week. The boats crossed the Straits in a week.

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